

Site-Based Decision Making





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Introduction

The Challenge calls for us all—students, parents, educators, and communities—to embrace a simple but powerful concept: that we measure success by gains in student achievement based on standards.

—Delaine Eastin
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Site-Based Decision Making is a guide for Challenge School Districts and other school districts making the transition to school-based management. In the context of this publication, *school-based management* means participatory decision making at the school. The intended audience is board members, administrators, teachers, parents, secondary school students, and community members participating in school-based decision making.

Through this guide the State Superintendent of Public Instruction expresses a commitment to sound practices of site-based program development. The intent is to ensure equitable and meaningful participation for all stakeholders in decisions that affect them and their children. The staff of the California Department of Education will give priority to the needs for technical assistance and training of Challenge Districts and other districts moving to school-based management practices.

The opening section of this publication, “Roles and Responsibilities in School-Based Decision Making,” explains site-based management in the context of district and school organization. The next section, “Strategies for Successful School-Based Decision Making,” presents strategies for initiating and evaluating site-based management. Because there are many possible variations in the implementation of site-based management, the guide explores both the theoretical and practical aspects of this concept.

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